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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/529/Add.3)*]

57/238. World Summit on the Information Society

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001,

Recalling also the Meeting of the General Assembly devoted to information and communication technologies for development, held in New York on 17 and 18 June 2002,[1]

Welcoming the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society undertaken at the national and regional levels, and encouraging all countries to intensify their work,

Welcoming also the regional conference held in Bamako from 25 to 30 May 2002, in the context of the preparatory process of the Summit,

Welcoming further the establishment of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society, and encouraging Member States to support it in accomplishing its task,

Welcoming the convening of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 July 2002,

Welcoming also the decision of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to contribute actively to the preparatory process for the Summit and, to that end, to hold its next meeting at Geneva on 21 and 22 February 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General containing the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society;[2]

2. *Invites* the Member States concerned to participate actively in the regional conferences to be held under the auspices of the regional commissions in

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 104th to 106th meetings (A/56/PV.101–104), and corrigenda.

[2] A/57/71-E/2002/52 and Add.1.

Bucharest in November 2002 and in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, and Tokyo in January 2003;

3. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to contribute further to, and actively participate in, the intergovernmental preparatory process for the Summit and in the Summit itself, according to the modalities of participation established by the Preparatory Committee;

4. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, as well as the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, to enhance their cooperation in and support to the preparatory process for the Summit;

5. *Recommends* that the occasion of the World Summit on the Information Society be used for arranging events related to the Summit;

6. *Recommends also* that, while addressing the whole range of relevant issues related to the information society, all actors involved adopt a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of all countries, including developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

7. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union, in the context of its leading managerial role in the preparatory process for the Summit, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and in coordination with other information offices of the United Nations system, to launch a public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, within the existing resources and through voluntary contributions;

8. *Reiterates its call* to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the International Telecommunication Union to support the preparations for and the holding of the Summit, as well as to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the regional meetings to be held in the first half of 2003, the preparatory meetings to be held in 2003 and the Summit itself;

9. *Invites* countries to send representation at the highest political level to the Summit, which will be held at Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and at Tunis in 2005;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to inform all heads of State and Government about the importance of the forthcoming Summit;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union to submit to the General Assembly for information, at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the preparations for the Summit.

78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002